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Batitskiy on Missile Forces

...Above all [the strength of the Soviet Army] lies in its personnel, who are utterly devoted to the homeland, and in its combat equipment, which has unprecedented destructive power and unlimited range.

In the first place, the Soviet Union gives its army the newest equipment for the defense of the country. In the postwar years, our Armed Forces again were reorganized and equipped with weapons created on the basis of the latest scientific-technical achievements. A new branch of Armed Forces appeared -- the Strategic Rocket Troops. Modern strategic rockets can carry an atomic charge to any area of the globe, so that the concept of geographic inaccessibility at present does not exist.

The Strategic Rocket Troops together with the atomic submarines of the Navy constitute a powerful means of restraining the aggressors and of decisively defeating them were they to unleash a war.

The PVO Strany Troops have become a qualitatively new branch of the Armed Forces. At present their weapons are based on highly effective surface-to-air rocket complexes and rocket-carrying fighter-interceptors. For ensuring the combat operation of rocketeers and pilots, the PVO troops are equipped with radar equipment. This permits them to detect the aerial targets in good time and to designate the targets accurately. The PVO troops are capable of reliably protecting the territory of the country from air attack by the enemy day and night, and under simple and complex meteorological conditions....

During the last two decades, our Army, Air Force, and Navy have renewed several times their armament and combat equipment. They also have available now powerful rocket-atomic weapons. Soviet submarines can sail at any time of year, in any sea and ocean, and in any latitude. Soviet airplanes fly still higher, further, and faster. Soviet tanks have become still more powerful, and they, as before, constitute a reliable armored shield of the homeland...

Armed Forces Day Article, "Always on Guard"
by Army Gen P. F. BATITSKIY, Deputy Minister of Defense USSR
Vil'nyus, Sovetskaya Litva, 23 February 1967